

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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TAGS: PFOR UN PT

SUBJ: 4TH COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES:
COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR BY AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA

1. IN FOURTH COMITE GENERAL DEBATE OCT 14TH ON SUBJECT OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE DOMINATION, AUSTRALIAN REP DESCRIBED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ON TIMOR AS BEING "BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF UN REGARDING THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION OF ALL COLONIAL PEOPLES. AUSTRALIA DOES NOT SEEK ANY SPECIAL POSITION ON TIMOR AND THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY REGARDING INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE DECISIVE." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT IF THEY DESIRED ANNEXATION TO INDONESIA IF THIS IS DONE ON THE BASIS OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED ACT OF SELF DETERMINATION. FURTHER THE TIMORESE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED DELIBERATELY TOWARDS THE DECISION ABOUT THEIR FUTURE."

2. IN HIS GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT, REFERRED TO THE AUSTRALIAN INTERVENTION AND SAID "AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT TERRITORY (TIMOR) BEING UNITED WITH INDONESIA, MY DELEGATION WOULD

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LIKE TO STATE BRIEFLY THAT INDONESIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN

ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR,
ONE WHICH WILL ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT
OF SELF-DETERMINATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECLARATION ON
DECOLONIZATION, TO WHICH INDONESIA CONSISTENTLY ADHERES.
THERE IS INDEED A DESIRE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE
TIMOR TO BE REUNITED WITH THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA AFTER A
PERIOD OF 400 YEARS OF SEPARATION IMPOSED UPON THEM BY COLONIAL
DOMINATION. THEREFORE, IF, AS A RESULT OF THE EXERCISE OF
THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE
TIMOR WISH TO UNITE WITH INDONESIA, WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE
WITH THEM IN ITS REALIZATION. SUCH AN ASSOCIATION SHOULD,
IN THE VIEW OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, BE IN CONFORMITY
WITH THE 1945 CONSTITUTION OF INDONESIA, WHICH INTER
ALIA DECIDES THAT INDONESIA IS A UNITARY STATE."

3. COMMITTEE TERMINATED DISCUSSION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES
OCT 14TH AND WILL START ON QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA
OCT 15TH.
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